UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/C.12/1999/2
27 January 1999

Original: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
Twentieth session
Geneva, 26 April-14 May 1999

STATES PARTIES TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS AND STATUS OF THE SUBMISSION OF REPORTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROGRAMME ESTABLISHED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL IN RESOLUTION 1988/4 AND RULE 58 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966 entered into force on 3 January 1976, three months after the date of the deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the thirty-fifth instrument of ratification, as provided for in article 27 of the Covenant.

2. As at 15 January 1999, the Covenant had been ratified or acceded to by 137 States. A list of States parties as well as information on the status of the submission of reports by States parties, is to be found in the annex to the present document.

GE.99-40275 (E)

ANNEXES

Annex I

STATES PARTIES TO THE COVENANT AND STATUS OF SUBMISSION OF REPORTS
(as of 15 January 1999)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
1. Afghanistan	24 April 1983	E/1990/5/Add.8 (E/C.12/1991/SR.2, 4-6 and 8)			Overdue		
2. Albania	4 January 1992	Overdue					
3. Algeria	12 December 1989	E/1990/5/Add.22 (E/C.12/1995/SR.46, 47, 48)			Overdue		
4. Angola	10 April 1992	Overdue					
5. Argentina	8 November 1986	E/1990/5/Add.18 (E/C.12/1994/SR.31, 32, 35, 36, 37)		E/1988/5/Add.4 E/1988/5/Add.8 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.18-20)	E/1990/6/Add.16 (Pending consideration)		
6. Armenia	13 December 1993	E/1990/5/Add.36 (Pending consideration)					
7. Australia**	10 March 1976	E/1978/8/Add.15 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.12-13)	E/1980/6/Add.22 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.18)	E/1982/3/Add.9 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.13-14)	E/1984/7/Add.22 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.17, 18 and 21)	E/1986/4/Add.7 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.10, 11, 13 and 14)	E/1990/7/Add.13 (E/C.12/1993/ SR.13, 15 and 20)
8. Austria***	10 December 1978	E/1984/6/Add.17 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.3-4)	E/1980/6/Add.19 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.8)	E/1982/3/Add.37 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.3)	E/1990/6/Add.5 (E/C.12/1994/ SR.39-41)	E/1986/4/Add.8 and Corr.1 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.4 and 7)	E/1990/6/Add.5 (E/C.12/1994/ SR.39-41)
9. Azerbaijan	13 November 1992	E/1990/5/Add.30 (E/C.12/1997/SR.39-41)					

Annex I (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
10. Barbados	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.33 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.3)	E/1980/6/Add.27 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.6-7)	E/1982/3/Add.24 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.14-15)	Overdue		
11. Belarus**	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.19 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.16)	E/1980/6/Add.18 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.16)	E/1982/3/Add.3 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.9-10)	E/1984/7/Add.8 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.13-15)	E/1986/4/Add.19 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.10-12)	E/1990/7/Add.5 (E/C.12/1992/ SR.2, 3 and 12)
12. Belgium	21 July 1983	E/1990/5/Add.15 (E/C.12/1994/SR.15-17)			E/1990/6/Add.18 (Pending consideration)		
13. Benin	12 June 1992	Overdue					
14. Bolivia	12 November 1982	Overdue					
15. Bosnia and Herzegovina	6 March 1993	Overdue					
16. Brazil	24 April 1992	Overdue					
17. Bulgaria**	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.24 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.12)	E/1980/6/Add.29 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.8)	E/1982/3/Add.23 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.11-13)	E/1984/7/Add.18 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.9 and 11)	E/1986/4/Add.20 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.17-19)	
18. Burundi	9 August 1990	Overdue					
19. Cambodia	26 August 1992	Overdue					
20. Cameroon	27 September 1984	E/1990/5/Add.35 (Pending consideration)	E/1986/3/Add.8 (E/C.12/1989/ SR.6-7)	E/1990/5/Add.35 (Pending consideration)			
21. Canada**	19 August 1976	E/1978/8/Add.32 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.1-2)	E/1980/6/Add.32 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.4 and 6)	E/1982/3/Add.34 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.13, 15 and 16)	E/1984/7/Add.28 (E/C.12/1989/ SR.8 and 11)	E/1990/6/Add.3 (E/C.12/1993/SR.6, 7 and 18)	
22. Cape Verde	6 November 1993	Overdue					
23. Central African Republic	8 August 1981	Overdue					
24. Chad	9 September 1995	Overdue					

Annex I (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
25. Chile*	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.10 and 28 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.8-9)	E/1980/6/Add.4 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.7)	E/1982/3/Add.40 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.12-13 and 16)	E/1984/7/Add.1 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.11-12)	E/1986/4/Add.18 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.12-13 and 16)	Overdue
26. Colombia**	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.17 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.15)	E/1986/3/Add.3 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.6 and 9)	E/1982/3/Add.36 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.15, 21 and 22)	E/1984/7/Add.21/ Rev.1 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.22 and 25)	E/1986/4/Add.25 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.12-14 and 17)	E/1990/7/Add.4 (E/C.12/1991/ SR.17, 18 and 25)
27. Congo	5 January 1984	Overdue					
28. Costa Rica	3 January 1976	E/1990/5/Add.3 (E/C.12/1990/SR.38, 40, 41 and 43)			Overdue		
29. Côte d'Ivoire	26 June 1992	Overdue					
30. Croatia	8 October 1991	Overdue					
31. Cyprus**	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.21 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.17)	E/1980/6/Add.3 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.6)	E/1982/3/Add.19 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.7-8)	E/1984/7/Add.13 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.18 and 22)	E/1986/4/Add.2 and 26 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.2, 3 and 5)	
32. Czech Republic	1 January 1993	Overdue					
33. Democratic People's Republic of Korea	14 December 1981	E/1984/6/Add.7 (E/C.12/1987/ SR.21-22)	E/1986/3/Add.5 (E/C.12/1987/ SR.21-22)	E/1988/5/Add.6 (E/C.12/1991/ SR.6, 8 and 10)	Overdue		
34. Democratic Republic of the Congo	1 February 1977	E/1984/6/Add.18	E/1986/3/Add.7	E/1982/3/Add.41 (E/C.12/1988/SR.16-19)	Overdue		
35. Denmark**	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.13 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.10)	E/1980/6/Add.15 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.12)	E/1982/3/Add.20 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.8-9)	E/1984/7/Add.11 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.17 and 21)	E/1986/4/Add.16 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.8-9)	

Annex I (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
36. Dominica	17 September 1993	Overdue					
37. Dominican Republic	4 April 1978	E/1990/5/Add.4 (E/C.12/1990/SR.43-45 and 47)			E/1990/6/Add.7 (E/C.12/1996/SR.29 and 30) (E/C.12/1997/SR.29-31)		
38. Ecuador	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.1 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.4-5)	E/1986/3/Add.14 E/1988/5/Add.7 (E/C.12/1990/SR.37-39 and 42)		E/1984/7/Add.12 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.20 and 22)	Overdue	
39. Egypt	14 April 1982	E/1990/5/Add.38 (Pending consideration)					
40. El Salvador	29 February 1980	E/1990/5/Add.25 (E/C.12/1996/SR.15,16,18)			Overdue		
41. Equatorial Guinea	25 December 1987	Overdue					
42. Estonia	21 January 1992	Overdue					
43. Ethiopia	11 September 1993	Overdue					
44. Finland**	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.14 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.6)	E/1980/6/Add.11 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.10)	E/1982/3/Add.28 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.7-8)	E/1984/7/Add.14 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.17-18)	E/1986/4/Add.4 (E/1986/WG.1 SR.8-9 and 11)	E/1990/7/Add.1 (E/C.12/1991/ SR.11, 12 and 16)
45. France	4 February 1981	E/1984/6/Add.11 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.18-19 and 21)	E/1986/3/Add.10 (E/C.12/1989/ SR.12-13)	E/1982/3/Add.30 and Corr.1 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.5 and 7)	Overdue		
46. Gabon	21 April 1983	Overdue					

Annex I (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
47. Gambia	29 March 1979	Overdue					
48. Georgia	3 August 1994	E/1990/5/Add.37 (Pending consideration)					
49. Germany**	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.8 and Corr.1 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.8) E/1978/8/Add.11 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.10)	E/1980/6/Add.6 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.8) E/1980/6/Add.10 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.10)	E/1982/3/Add.15 and Corr.1 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.5-6) E/1982/3/Add.14 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.17-18)	E/1984/7/Add.3 and 23 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.12 and 16) E/1984/7/Add.24 and Corr.1 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.22-23 and 25)	E/1986/4/Add.11 (E/C.12/1987/ Sk.11, 12 and 14) E/1986/4/Add.10 (E/C.12/1987/ SR.19-20)	E/1990/7/Add.12 (E/C.12/1993/ SR.35, 36 and 46)
50. Greece	16 August 1985	Overdue					
51. Grenada	6 December 1991	Overdue					
52. Guatemala	19 August 1988	E/1990/5/Add.24 (E/C.12/1996/SR.11-14)			Overdue		
53. Guinea	24 April 1978	Overdue					
54. Guinea-Bissau	2 October 1992	Overdue					
55. Guyana	15 May 1977	E/1990/5/Add.27 (Pending consideration)		E/1982/3/Add.5, 29 and 32 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.20 and 22 and E/1985/WG.1/ SR.6)			
56. Honduras	17 May 1981	E/1990/5/Add.40 (Pending consideration)					
57. Hungary*	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.7 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.7)	E/1980/6/Add.37 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.6-7 and 9)	E/1982/3/Add.10 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.14)	E/1984/7/Add.15 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.19 and 21)	E/1986/4/Add.1 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.6-7 and 9)	E/1990/7/Add.10 (E/C.12/1992/ SR.9, 12 and 21)

Annex I (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
58. Iceland	22 November 1979	E/1990/5/Add.6, (E/C.12/1993/SR.29, 30, 31 and 46) E/1990/5/Add.14			E/1990/6/Add.15 (Pending consideration)		
59. India	10 July 1979	E/1984/6/Add.13 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.20 and 24)	E/1980/6/Add.34 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.6 and 8)	E/1988/5/Add.5 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.16-17 and 19)	Overdue		
60. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	3 January 1976	E/1990/5/Add.9 (E/C.12/1993/SR.7-9 and 20)		E/1982/3/Add.43 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.42, 43 and 45)	Overdue		
61. Iraq**	3 January 1976	E/1984/6/Add.3 and 8 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.8 and 11)	E/1980/6/Add.14 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.12)	E/1982/3/Add.26 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.3-4)		E/1986/4/Add.3 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.8 and 11)	E/1990/7/Add.15 (E/C.12/1994/ SR.11 and 14)
62. Ireland	8 March 1990	E/1990/5/Add.34 (Pending consideration)					
63. Israel	3 January 1992	E/1990/5/Add.39 (E/C.12/1998/SR.31-33)					
64. Italy**	15 December 1978	E/1978/8/Add.34 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.3-4)	E/1980/6/Add.31 and 36 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.3 and 5)		E/1990/6/Add.2 (E/C.12/1992/SR.13, 14 and 21)		
65. Jamaica	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.27 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.20)	E/1986/3/Add.12 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.10-12 and 15)	E/1988/5/Add.3 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.10-12 and 15)	E/1984/7/Add.30 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.10-12 and 15)	Overdue	

Annex I (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
66. Japan	21 September 1979	E/1984/6/Add.6 and Corr.1 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.9-10)	E/1986/3/Add.4 and Corr.1 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.20-21 and 23)	E/1982/3/Add.7 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.12-13)	E/1990/6/Add.21 (Pending consideration)		
67. Jordan	3 January 1976	E/1984/6/Add.15 (E/C.12/1987/ SR.6-8)	E/1986/3/Add.6 (E/C.12/1987/ SR.8)	E/1982/3/Add.38/ Rev.1 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.30-32)	E/1990/6/Add.17 (Pending consideration)		
68. Kenya	3 January 1976	E/1990/5/Add.18					
69. Kuwait	31 August 1996	Overdue					
70. Kyrgyzstan	7 January 1995	E/1990/5/Add.42 (Pending consideration)					
71. Latvia	14 July 1992	Overdue					
72. Lebanon	3 January 1976	E/1990/5/Add.16 (E/C.12/1993/SR.14, 16 and 21)			Overdue		
73. Lesotho	9 December 1992	Overdue					
74. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	3 January 1976	E/1990/5/Add.26 (E/C.12/1997/SR.20-21)		E/1982/3/Add.6 and 25 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.16-17)	Overdue		
75. Lithuania	20 February 1992	Overdue					
76. Luxembourg	18 November 1983	E/1990/5/Add.1 (E/C.12/1990/SR.33-36)			E/1990/6/Add.9 (E/C.12/1997/SR.48-49)		

Annex I (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
77. Madagascar	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.29 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.2)	E/1980/6/Add.39 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.2-3 and 5)	Overdue	E/1984/7/Add.19 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.14 and 18)	Overdue	Overdue
78. Malawi	22 March 1994	Overdue					
79. Mali	3 January 1976	Overdue					
80. Malta	13 December 1990	Overdue					
81. Mauritius	3 January 1976	E/1990/5/Add.21 (E/C.12/1995/SR.40, 41 and 43)			Overdue		
82. Mexico**	23 June 1981	E/1984/6/Add.2 and 10 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.24, 26 and 28)	E/1986/3/Add.13 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.6, 7 and 9)	E/1982/3/Add.8 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.14-15)	E/1990/6/Add.4 (E/C.12/1993/SR.32-35 and 49)		
83. Moldova	26 March 1993	Overdue					
84. Monaco	28 November 1997	Due on 30 June 1999					
85. Mongolia**	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.6 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.7)	E/1980/6/Add.7 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.8-9)	E/1982/3/Add.11 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.15-16)	E/1984/7/Add.6 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.16 and 18)	E/1986/4/Add.9 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.5 and 7)	
86. Morocco	3 August 1979	E/1990/5/Add.13 (E/C.12/1994/SR.8-10)			E/1990/6/Add.20		
87. Namibia	28 February 1995	Overdue					
88. Nepal	14 August 1991	Overdue					

Annex I (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
89. Netherlands***	11 March 1979	E/1984/6/Add.14 and 20 (E/C.12/1987/ SR.5-6) (E/C.12/1989/ SR.14-15)	E/1980/6/Add.33 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.4-6 and 8)	E/1982/3/Add.35 and 44 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.14 and 18) (E/C.12/1989/ SR.14-15)	E/1990/6/Add.11 E/1990/6/Add.12 (E/C.12/1998/ SR.13-17)	E/1986/4/Add.24 (E/C.12/1989/ SR.14-15)	E/1990/6/Add.13 (E/C.12/1998/ SR.13-17)
90. New Zealand	28 March 1979	E/1990/5/Add.5, E/1990/5/Add.11 and E/1990/5/Add.12 (E/C.12/1993/SR.24, 25, 26 and 40)			Overdue		
91. Nicaragua	12 June 1980	E/1984/6/Add.9 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.16-17 and 19)	E/1986/3/Add.15 (E/C.12/1993/ SR.27, 28 and 46)	E/1982/3/Add.31 and Corr.1 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.15)	Overdue		
92. Niger	7 June 1986	Overdue					
93. Nigeria	29 October 1993	E/1990/5/Add.31 (E/C.12/1998/SR.6-9)					
94. Norway**	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.12 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.5)	E/1980/6/Add.5 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.14)	E/1982/3/Add.12 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.16)	E/1984/7/Add.16 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.19 and 22)	E/1986/4/Add.21 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.14-15)	E/1990/7/Add.7 (E/C.12/1992/ SR.4, 5 and 12)
95. Panama	8 June 1977	E/1984/6/Add.19 (E/C.12/1991/ SR.3, 5 and 8)	E/1980/6/Add.20 and 23 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.5)	E/1988/5/Add.9 (E/C.12/1991/ SR.3, 5 and 8)	Overdue	E/1986/4/Add.22 (E/C.12/1991/ SR.3, 5 and 8)	Overdue
96. Paraguay	10 September 1992	E/1990/5/Add.23 (E/C.12/1996/SR.1, 2 and 4)					
97. Peru	28 July 1978	E/1984/6/Add.5 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.11 and 18)	E/1990/5/Add.29 (E/C.12/1997/SR.15-17)		Overdue		

Annex I (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
98. Philippines	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.4 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.11)	E/1986/3/Add.17 (E/C.12/1995/ SR.11, 12 and 14)	E/1988/5/Add.2 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.8-9 and 11)	E/1984/7/Add.4 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.15 and 20)	Overdue	
99. Poland**	18 June 1977	E/1978/8/Add.23 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.18-19)	E/1980/6/Add.12 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.11)	E/1982/3/Add.21 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.9-10)	E/1984/7/Add.26 and 27 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.25-27)	E/1986/4/Add.12 (E/C.12/1989/ SR.5-6)	E/1990/7/Add.9 (E/C.12/1992/ SR.6, 7 and 15)
100. Portugal**	31 October 1978		E/1980/6/Add.35/ Rev.1 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.2 and 4)	E/1982/3/Add.27/ Rev.1 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.6 and 9)	E/1990/6/Add.6 (E/C.12/1995/SR.7, 8, 10) E/1990/6/Add.8 (Macao) (E/C.12/1996/SR.31-33)		
101. Republic of Korea	10 July 1990	E/1990/5/Add.19 (E/C.12/1995/SR.3, 4, 6)			Overdue		
102. Romania*	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.20 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.16-17)	E/1980/6/Add.1 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.5)	E/1982/3/Add.13 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.17-18)	E/1984/7/Add.17 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.10 and 13)	E/1986/4/Add.17 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.6)	E/1990/7/Add.14 (E/C.12/1994/ SR.5, 7 and 13)
103. Russian Federation**	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.16 (F/1980/WG.1/ SR.14)	E/1980/6/Add.17 (E/1981/WG 1/ SR.14-15)	E/1982/3/Add.1 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.11-12)	E/1984/7/Add.7 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.9-10)	E/1986/4/Add.14 (E/C.12/1987/ SR.16-18)	E/1990/7/Add.8 (withdrawn)
104. Rwanda	3 January 1976	E/1984/6/Add.4 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.10 and 12)	E/1986/3/Add.1 /E/1986/WG.1/ SR.16 and 19)	E/1982/3/Add.42 (E/C.12/1989/ SR.10-12)	E/1984/7/Add.29 (E/C.12/1989/ SR.10-12)	Overdue	Overdue
105. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	9 February 1982	Overdue					
106. San Marino	18 January 1986	Overdue					

Annex I (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
107. Senegal	13 May 1978	E/1984/6/Add.22 (E/C.12/1993/ SR.37, 38 and 49)	E/1980/6/Add.13/ Rev.1 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.11)	E/1982/3/Add.17 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.14-16)	Overdue		
108. Seychelles	5 August 1982	Overdue					
109. Sierra Leone	23 November 1996	Overdue					
110. Slovakia	28 May 1993	Overdue					
111. Slovenia	6 July 1992	Overdue					
112. Solomon Islands	17 March 1982	Overdue					
113. Somalia	24 April 1990	Overdue					
114. Spain**	27 July 1977	E/1978/8/Add.26 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.20)	E/1980/6/Add.28 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.7)	E/1982/3/Add.22 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.10-11)	E/1984/7/Add.2 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.12 and 14)	E/1986/4/Add.6 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.10 and 13)	E/1990/7/Add.3 (E/C.12/1991/ SR.13, 14, 16 and 22)
115. Sri Lanka	11 September 1980	E/1990/5/Add.32 (E/C.12/1998/SR.3-5)					
116. Sudan	18 June 1986	E/1990/5/Add.41 (Pending consideration)					
117. Suriname	28 March 1977	E/1990/5/Add.20 (E/C.12/1995/SR.13, 15, 16)			Overdue		
118. Sweden**	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.5 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.15)	E/1980/6/Add.8 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.9)	E/1982/3/Add.2 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.19-20)	E/1984/7/Add.5 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.14 and 16)	E/1986/4/Add.13 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.10-11)	E/1990/7/Add.2 (E/C.12/1991/ SR.11-13 and 18)
119. Switzerland	18 September 1992	E/1990/5/Add.33 (E/C.12/1998/SR.37-39)					

Annex I (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
120. Syrian Arab Republic*	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.25 and 31 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.2)	E/1980/6/Add.9 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.4)		E/1990/6/Add.1 (E/C.12/1991/SR.7, 9 and 11)		
121. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	17 September 1991	Overdue					
122. Togo	24 August 1984	Overdue					
123. Trinidad and Tobago	8 March 1979	E/1984/6/Add.21	E/1986/3/Add.11	E/1988/5/Add.1 (E/C.12/1989/SR.17-19)	Overdue		
124. Tunisia	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.3 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.5-6)	E/1986/3/Add.9 (E/C.12/1989/ SR.9)		E/1990/6/Add.14 (Pending consideration)		
125. Turkmenistan	1 August 1997	Due on 30 June 1999					
126. Uganda	21 April 1987	Overdue					
127. Ukraine**	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.22 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.18)	E/1980/6/Add.24 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.5-6)	E/1982/3/Add.4 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.11-12)	E/1984/7/Add.9 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.13-15)	E/1986/4/Add.5 (E/C.12/1987/ SR.9-11)	E/1990/7/Add.11 (withdrawn)
128. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**	20 August 1976	E/1978/8/Add.9 and 30 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.19 and E/1982/WG.1/ SR.1)	E/1980/6/Add.16 and Corr.1, Add.25 and Corr.1 and Add.26 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.16-17)	E/1982/3/Add.16 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.19-21)	E/1984/7/Add.20 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.14 and 17)	E/1986/4/Add.23 (E/C.12/1989/ SR.16-17) E/1986/4/Add.27 E/1986/4/28 E/C.12/1994/ SR.33, 34, 36, 37	E/1990/7/Add.16 E/C.12/1994/ SR.33, 34, 36 and 37

Annex I (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
129. United Republic of Tanzania	11 September 1976	Overdue	E/1980/6/Add.2 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.5)	Overdue			
130. Uruguay	3 January 1976	E/1990/5/Add.7(E/C.12/1994/SR.3, 4,6 and 13)			E/1990/6/Add.10 (E/C.12/1997/SR.42-44)		
131. Uzbekistan	28 December 1995	Overdue					
132. Venezuela	10 August 1978	E/1984/6/Add.1 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.7-8 and 10)	E/1980/6/Add.38 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.2 and 5)	E/1982/3/Add.33 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.12, 17 and 18)	E/1990/6/Add.19 (Pending consideration)		
133. Viet Nam	24 December 1982	E/1990/5/Add.10 (E/C.12/1993/SR.9-11 and 19)			Overdue		
134. Yemen	9 May 1987	Overdue					
135. Yugoslavia	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.35 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.4-5)	E/1980/6/Add.30 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.3)	E/1982/3/Add.39 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.14-15)	E/1984/7/Add.10 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.16 and 18)	E/1990/6/Add.22 (Pending consideration)	
136. Zambia	10 July 1984	Overdue	E/1986/3/Add.2 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.4-5 and 7)	Overdue			
137. Zimbabwe	13 August 1991	E/1990/5/Add.28 (E/C.12/1997/SR.8-10 and 14)			Overdue		

Annex I (concluded)

* The third periodic report, which was due on 30 June 1994, has not yet been received.

** The third periodic report of Sweden (E/1994/104/Add.1) was considered at the twelfth session (E/C.12/1995/SR.13/Add.1, 15/Add.1 and 16); the third periodic report of Colombia (E/1994/104/Add.2) was considered at the thirteenth session (E/C.12/1995/SR.32, 33 and 35); the third periodic report of Norway (E/1994/104/Add.3) was considered at the thirteenth session (E/C.12/1995/SR.34, 36, 37); the third periodic report of Ukraine (E/1994/104/Add.4) was considered at the thirteenth session (E/C.12/1995/SR.42, 44 and 45); the third periodic report of Spain (E/1994/104/Add.5) was considered at the fourteenth session (E/C.12/1996/SR.3, 5-7); the third periodic report of Belarus (E/1994/104/Add.6) was considered at the fifteenth session (E/C.12/1996/SR.34-36); the third periodic report of Finland (E/1994/104/Add.7) was considered at the fifteenth session (E/C.12/1996/SR.37, 38 and 40); the third periodic report of the Russian Federation (E/1994/104/Add.8) was considered at the fifteenth session (E/C.12/1997/SR.11-14); the third periodic report of Iraq (E/1994/104/Add.9) was considered at the seventeenth session (E/C.12/1997/SR.33-35); the third periodic report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Hong Kong (E/1994/104/Add.10) was considered at the fifteenth session (E/C.12/1996/SR.39, 41, 42 and 44); the third periodic report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (E/1994/104/Add.11) was considered at the seventeenth session (E/C.12/1997/SR.36-38); the third periodic report of Cyprus (E/1994/104/Add.12) was considered at the nineteenth session (E/C.12/1998/SR.34-36); the third periodic report of Poland (E/1994/104/Add.13) was considered at the eighteenth session (E/C.12/1998/SR.10-12); the third periodic report of Germany (E/1994/104/Add.14) was considered at the nineteenth session (E/C.12/1998/SR.40-42); the third periodic report of Denmark was received on 12 August 1996 (E/1994/104/Add.15); the third periodic report of Bulgaria was received on 19 September 1996 (E/1994/104/Add.16); the third periodic report of Canada (E/1994/104/Add.17) was considered at the nineteenth session (E/C.12/1998/SR.46-48); the third period report of Mexico was received on 18 July 1997 (E/1994/104/Add.18); the third periodic report of Italy was received on 20 October 1997 (E/1994/104/Add.19); the third periodic report of Portugal was received on 26 November 1997 (E/1994/104/Add.20); the third periodic report of Mongolia was received on 21 April 1998 (E/1994/104/Add.21); the third periodic report of Australia was received on 15 June 1998 (E/1994/104/Add.22).

*** The third periodic report, which was due on 30 June 1997, has not yet been received.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/C.12/1999/3
12 February 1999

Original: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
Twentieth session
Geneva, 26 April-14 May 1999
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

SUBMISSION OF REPORTS BY STATES PARTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLES 16 AND 17 OF THE COVENANT

Follow-up to the consideration of reports under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its fourteenth session, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, recognizing the importance of periodically reviewing the implementation by States parties of its suggestions and recommendations, requested the Secretariat to submit to it, as from the fifteenth session, a document indicating all cases where a follow-up had been suggested by the Committee.

2. The information requested by the Committee is to be found in the annex to the present note.

Annex

FOLLOW-UP BY STATES PARTIES TO THE CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
(status as at 15 July 1998)

State party	Report/summary records/concluding observations	Follow-up measures requested	Deadline	Action taken
Dominican Republic	E/1990/6/Add.7 E/C.12/1996/SR.29 and 30 E/C.12/1/Add.6	The Committee invited the State party to confirm publicly its commitment to implement its binding human rights treaty obligations. It strongly called upon the Government of the State party to honour its obligations under the Covenant, particularly through maintaining the proper direct and constructive dialogue with the Committee as called for in the Covenant. The Committee proposed to adopt its final concluding observations in relation to the State party at its sixteenth session; for that reason the present concluding observations would be considered "preliminary", pending further consideration of the report based on a dialogue with representatives of the State party at its sixteenth session (concluding observations, para. 26).	28 April-16 May 1997	Final Concluding observations were adopted by the Committee at its seventeenth session (17 November - 5 December 1997), E/C.12/1/Add.16.

State party	Report/summary records/concluding observations	Follow-up measures requested	Deadline	Action taken
		The Committee further recommended that the State party provide it with written replies to the concluding observations adopted at its eleventh session (E/C.12/1994/15), in particular with regard to its request that the State party invite representatives of the Committee to visit the Dominican Republic; the written list of issues drawn up with respect to the third periodic report (E/C.12/1995/LQ.7); information contained in the document "The Dominican Republic: an independent report submitted to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by the International Women's Rights Action Watch" (concluding observations, para. 28).	28 April-16 May 1997	1. The State party invited representatives of the Committee to visit the Dominican Republic (note verbale of 28 April 1997) 2. Written replies to the list of issues submitted 23 April 199[illegible]
		The Committee requested the State party to submit the information referred to in the preceding paragraph by 15 February 1997 in order to allow the Committee to consider that information at its sixteenth session (concluding observations, para. 29).	28 April-16 May 1997	The Committee welcomed the resumption of dialogue with the Dominican Republic ... and the submission by
		The Committee strongly recommended that the specific information requested above be presented to the Committee at its sixteenth session by an expert delegation (concluding observations, para. 30).	28 April-16 May 1997	the State party of comprehensive written answers to its List of issues.

State party	Report/summary records/concluding observations	Follow-up measures requested	Deadline	Action taken
				The Committee also welcomed the appearance before it of an expert and a high-level delegation from the capital, which allowed for a fruitful and constructive dialogue to be conducted (E/C.12/1/Add.16, para. 1, 3 December 1997).
El Salvador	E/1990/5/Add.25 E/C.12/1996/SR.15, 16, 18 E/C.12/1/Add.4	Further information was requested on articles 6-8 and 15 of the Covenant, as well as on any problems encountered in that regard (concluding observations, para. 36).	31 Oct. 1996	The requested information was provided on 11 August 1998.

State party	Report/summary records/concluding observations	Follow-up measures requested	Deadline	Action taken
		Information was requested on the activities of the Office of the Procurator for the Defence of Human Rights, in particular on how much weight its recommendations carried and on the action taken on complaints it filed with regard to violations of economic, social and cultural rights, information enabling the Committee to evaluate the extent to which the members of indigenous communities enjoyed all the economic, social and cultural rights provided for in the Covenant (concluding observations, paras. 28 and 35). The proposal of the Centre for Human Rights concerning technical cooperation should be given favourable consideration and such assistance used to guarantee the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by all (concluding observations, para. 39).	Next report	Within the framework of project ELS/95/AH/10 (1997/98)

State party	Report/summary records/concluding observations	Follow-up measures requested	Deadline	Action taken
Guinea	Without report E/C.12/1996/SR.17, 22 E/C.12/1/Add.5	The Committee reiterated its request that the Government of Guinea actively participate in a constructive dialogue with the Committee on how the obligations arising from the Covenant could be fulfilled in a more adequate manner. It called to the Government's attention the fact that the Covenant created a legal obligation for all States parties to submit periodic reports and that Guinea had been in breach of this obligation for many years (concluding observations, para. 25). The Committee recommended that the Government of Guinea avail itself of the advisory services of the Centre for Human Rights in order to enable it to submit as soon as possible a comprehensive report on the implementation of the Covenant, in conformity with the revised general guidelines adopted by the Committee in 1990 (E/C.12/1991/1) and with particular emphasis on the issues raised and concerns expressed in the concluding observations (concluding observations, para. 26).		

State party	Report/summary records/concluding observations	Follow-up measures requested	Deadline	Action taken
		The Committee encouraged the Centre for Human Rights to make available, through its programme of advisory services and technical assistance, expert assistance to States for the purpose of formulating policies on economic, social and cultural rights, and developing the implementation of coherent and comprehensive plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as developing adequate means of evaluating and monitoring their realization (concluding observations, para. 27).		
Honduras	E/1997/22, para. 391 Letter from the Government of Honduras, January 1997	Request for technical assistance	May 1997	Assistance provided, March 1997. Initial report received 2 April 1998
Israel	E/1990/5/Add.39 E/C.12/1998/SR.31-33 E/C.12/1/Add.27	The Committee requests the State Party to provide additional information on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights in the Occupied Territories, in order to complete its initial report and thereby to ensure full compliance with its reporting obligations.	30 June 2000	

State party	Report/summary records/concluding observations	Follow-up measures requested	Deadline	Action taken
		Detailed information, including the latest statistical data, is also requested on the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights in East Jerusalem, keeping in mind the concerns raised by the Committee in the relevant paragraphs of the concluding observations. In addition, the Committee also requests updated information on the target dates for recognizing unrecognized villages and an outline plan for the delivery of basic services including water, electricity, access roads, health care and primary education, to which the villagers are entitled as citizens of Israel. The Committee requests that the additional information also include an update on the Outline Plan of Ein Hod and progress in the recognition of Arab El-Na'im, as well as an update on the Jahalin Bedouins camped in Abu Dis who are awaiting a court decision on their resettlement. The Committee requests the submission of detailed additional information in this respect in time for the twenty-third session of the Committee in November and December 2000 (para. 32).		

State party	Report/summary records/concluding observations	Follow-up measures requested	Deadline	Action taken
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	E/C.12/1/Add.15	The Committee requested that the State party provide the Committee with all of the written answers promised by the delegation, and that the State party's second periodic report contain more information regarding actual practice and the effective implementation of the rights guaranteed by the Covenant and include information on action taken with regard to the present concluding observations (concluding observations, para. 25).	Second periodic report	
Nigeria	E/C.12/1/Add.23 May 1998	The Committee urges in the strongest terms that union leaders and their rank and file members, including in particular those named in paragraph 17 above, who have been imprisoned without being charged or tried, be freed immediately (concluding observations, para. 37).	Urgently	
Paraguay	E/1990/5/Add.23 E/C.12/1996/ SR.1, 2, 4 E/C.12/1/Add.1	The Committee requested the State party to provide it with written replies to the unanswered questions from the list of issues (concluding observations, para. 32).	31 Oct. 1996	The requested information was provided on 10 December 1998

State party	Report/summary records/concluding observations	Follow-up measures requested	Deadline	Action taken
		The next report should fill in the information gaps identified during the consideration of the initial report by the Committee (i.e. detailed information on the full implementation of legislative and administrative measures relating to prevention and enforcement in respect of safe and healthy working conditions; cases in which the Covenant has been invoked in the courts) (concluding observations, para. 32).	30 June 1999	
Peru	E/C.12/1/Add.12	The Committee called upon the State party to submit as soon as possible all the relevant information which it had failed to provide during the consideration of its report. The State party should, in particular, give detailed information on the legislative and other measures and practices adopted in connection with the right to adequate housing and the right to social security, particularly in relation to the functioning of the pensions system (concluding observations, para. 40).	As soon as possible	The requested information was provided on 2 December 1997 and 18 February 1998.

State party	Report/summary records/concluding observations	Follow-up measures requested	Deadline	Action taken
Portugal (Macau)	E/1990/6/Add.8 E/C.12/1996/SR.31-33 E/C.12/1/Add.9	The Committee took note of the readiness of the State party to provide it with additional information in reply to the concerns expressed by it in the course of the discussion, and recommended that in its replies the State party pay particular attention to the issue of family reunification and to the legislative provisions safeguarding the principles of ILO Conventions No. 103 and No. 138 and their practical applications (concluding observations, para. 16).	1 May 1997	
		The Committee recommended, in view of the lack of sufficient information provided by the State party, that detailed information be provided on measures taken to implement the provisions of article 10. In that connection, the attention of the State party was drawn to the relevant parts of the Committee's revised guidelines regarding the form and contents of reports to be submitted by State parties (concluding observations, para. 18).	1 May 1997	
		The Committee strongly urged the Portuguese Administration to take all necessary measures to ensure that the reports under the Covenant were submitted after 1999 (concluding observations, para. 24).		

State party	Report/summary records/concluding observations	Follow-up measures requested	Deadline	Action taken
Sri Lanka	E/1990/5/Add.32 E/C.12/1998/SR.3-5 E/C.12/1/Add.24	The Committee further requests that an updated report be provided on progress achieved by the Government in addressing the problems of poverty, malnutrition and lack of adequate housing (para. 28).	1999	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Hong Kong	E/1994/104/Add.10 E/C.12/1996/SR.39, 41, 42 and 44 E/C.12/1/Add.10	The Committee requested that, within 45 days, it receive a comprehensive response to its inquiry regarding three Vietnamese refugees who had been denied medical and dental treatment, mainly for refusing to return voluntarily to Viet Nam (concluding observations, para. 42).	27 Jan. 1997	Response received on 23 Jan. 1997
Zimbabwe	E/C.12/1/Add.12	The Committee reminded the State party that, as a signatory to the Covenant, it was committed to ensure compulsory, free primary education to all children in Zimbabwe. Even though the Committee was aware of the current difficulties in Zimbabwe and the State party's efforts in that field, the Committee invited the State party to submit to it within a year a plan of action and a progress report as to the implementation of this obligation (concluding observations, para. 22).	16 May 1998	

State party	Report/summary records/concluding observations	Follow-up measures requested	Deadline	Action taken
		Bearing in mind that members of the Committee requested specific information that was not provided during the examination of the State party's report, in particular on the cultural situation and the participation of minority groups in cultural life, the Committee urged the State party to submit the requested additional information and statistics within three months of receipt of the Committee's concluding observations, and in any event prior to the Committee's seventeenth session (concluding observations, para. 23).	20 Aug. 1997	

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/C.12/1999/4
10 May 1999

Original: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
Twentieth session
Geneva, 26 April-14 May 1999
Agenda item 7

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES ARISING IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS:

General Comment 11 (1999)

Plans of action for primary education (article 14 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)

1. Article 14 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights requires each State party which has not been able to secure compulsory primary education, free of charge, to undertake, within two years, to work out and adopt a detailed plan of action for the progressive implementation, within a reasonable number of years, to be fixed in the plan, of the principle of compulsory primary education free of charge for all. In spite of the obligations undertaken in accordance with article 14, a number of States parties have neither drafted nor implemented a plan of action for free and compulsory primary education.

2. The right to education, recognized in articles 13 and 14 of the Covenant, as well as in a variety of other international treaties, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, is of vital importance. It has been variously classified as an economic right, a social right and a cultural right. It is all of these. It is also, in many ways, a civil right and a political right, since it is central to the full and effective realization of those rights as well. In this respect, the right to education epitomizes the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights.

3. In line with its clear and unequivocal obligation under article 14, every State party is under a duty to present to the Committee a plan of action drawn up along the lines specified in paragraph 8 below. This obligation needs to be scrupulously observed in view of the fact that in developing countries, 130 million children of school age are currently estimated to be without access to primary education, of whom about two thirds are girls. 1/ The Committee is fully aware that many diverse factors have made it difficult for States parties to fulfil their obligation to provide a plan of action. For example, the structural adjustment programmes that began in the 1970s, the debt crises that followed in the 1980s and the financial crises of the late 1990s, as well as other factors, have greatly exacerbated the extent to which the right to primary education is being denied. These difficulties, however, cannot relieve States parties of their obligation to adopt and submit a plan of action to the Committee, as provided for in article 14 of the Covenant.

4. Plans of action prepared by States parties to the Covenant in accordance with article 14 are especially important as the work of the Committee has shown that the lack of educational opportunities for children often reinforces their subjection to various other human rights violations. For instance these children, who may live in abject poverty and not lead healthy lives, are particularly vulnerable to forced labour and other forms of exploitation. Moreover, there is a direct correlation between, for example, primary school enrolment levels for girls and major reductions in child marriages.

5. Article 14 contains a number of elements which warrant some elaboration in the light of the Committee's extensive experience in examining State party reports.

6. Compulsory. The element of compulsion serves to highlight the fact that neither parents, nor guardians, nor the State are entitled to treat as optional the decision as to whether the child should have access to primary education. Similarly, the prohibition of gender discrimination in access to education, required also by articles 2 and 3 of the Covenant, is further underlined by this requirement. It should be emphasized, however, that the education offered must be adequate in quality, relevant to the child and must promote the realization of the child's other rights.

7. Free of charge. The nature of this requirement is unequivocal. The right is expressly formulated so as to ensure the availability of primary education without charge to the child, parents or guardians. Fees imposed by the Government, the local authorities or the school, and other direct costs, constitute disincentives to the enjoyment of the right and may jeopardize its realization. They are also often highly regressive in effect. Their elimination is a matter which must be addressed by the required plan of action. Indirect costs, such as compulsory levies on parents (sometimes portrayed as being voluntary, when in fact they are not), or the obligation to wear a relatively expensive school uniform, can also fall into the same category. Other indirect costs may be permissible, subject to the Committee's examination on a case-by-case basis. This provision of compulsory primary education in no way conflicts with the right recognized in article 13.3 of the Covenant for parents and guardians "to choose for their children schools other than those established by the public authorities".

1/ See generally UNICEF, The State of the World's Children 1999.

8. Adoption of a detailed plan. The State party is required to adopt a plan of action within two years. This must be interpreted as meaning within two years of the Covenant's entry into force of the State concerned, or within two years of a subsequent change in circumstances which has led to the non-observance of the relevant obligation. This obligation is a continuing one and States parties to which the provision is relevant by virtue of the prevailing situation are not absolved from the obligation as a result of their past failure to act within the two-year limit. The plan must cover all of the actions which are necessary in order to secure each of the requisite component parts of the right and must be sufficiently detailed so as to ensure the comprehensive realization of the right. Participation of all sections of civil society in the drawing up of the plan is vital and some means of periodically reviewing progress and ensuring accountability are essential. Without those elements, the significance of the article would be undermined.

9. Obligations. A State party cannot escape the unequivocal obligation to adopt a plan of action on the grounds that the necessary resources are not available. If the obligation could be avoided in this way, there would be no justification for the unique requirement contained in article 14 which applies, almost by definition, to situations characterized by inadequate financial resources. By the same token, and for the same reason, the reference to "international assistance and cooperation" in article 2.1 and to "international action" in article 23 of the Covenant are of particular relevance in this situation. Where a State party is clearly lacking in the financial resources and/or expertise required to "work out and adopt" a detailed plan, the international community has a clear obligation to assist.

10. Progressive implementation. The plan of action must be aimed at securing the progressive implementation of the right to compulsory primary education, free of charge, under article 14. Unlike the provision in article 2.1, however, article 14 specifies that the target date must be "within a reasonable number of years" and moreover, that the time-frame must "be fixed in the plan". In other words, the plan must specifically set out a series of targeted implementation dates for each stage of the progressive implementation of the plan. This underscores both the importance and the relative inflexibility of the obligation in question. Moreover, it needs to be stressed in this regard that the State party's other obligations, such as non-discrimination, are required to be implemented fully and immediately.

11. The Committee calls upon every State party to which article 14 is relevant to ensure that its terms are fully complied with and that the resulting plan of action is submitted to the Committee as an integral part of the reports required under the Covenant. Further, in appropriate cases, the Committee encourages States parties to seek the assistance of relevant international agencies, including the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, in relation both to the preparation of plans of action under article 14 and their subsequent implementation. The Committee also calls upon the relevant international agencies to assist States parties to the greatest extent possible to meet their obligations on an urgent basis.

- - - - -